

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BAMA KO 03595 311225Z

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SYE-00 MCT-01 SS-15 NSC-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

INRE-00 PM-05 DODE-00 /049 W

-----128308 311237Z /53

O 311126Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7310

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BAMA KO 3595

ABIDJAN FOR RSO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ML TO BB

SUBJECT: ALLEGED ASSASSINATION PLOT AGAINST U. S. AMBASSADOR
LOME AND GABON PRESIDENT

1. ON AUGUST 30, ABDOULAYE KONE, MALIAN CITIZEN, BORN CIRCA 1945, PLACE OF BIRTH UNKNOWN, WALKED INTO EMBASSY WITH INFORMATION CONCERNING AN ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE U. S. AMBASSADOR TO TOGO, AND PRESIDENT OF GABON ON SEPTEMBER 12, 1977.

2. KONE GAVE FOLLOWING STORY TO EMBASSY ECON OFFICER DURING LENGTHY INTERVIEW IN LATTER'S OFFICE: WHILE SEARCHING FOR WORK IN IVORY COAST, KONE WAS APPROACHED BY A GUINEAN WHO OFFERED HIM A JOB SMUGGLING DIAMONDS OUT OF GUINEA. KONE ACCEPTED THE OFFER WITH TRAVEL MONEY AND PROCEEDED TO A TOWN CALLED NZEREKORE IN GUINEA. THERE HE WAS MET AND, TO HIS SURPRISE, TAKEN 60 KILOMETERS TO MILITARY CAMP CALLED "CAMP BOIREAU". FEARING FOR HIS LIFE, HE REMAINED IN CAMP AND AGREED TO THREE MONTHS TRAINING TO

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PAGE 02 BAMA KO 03595 311225Z

BECOME A MERCENARY. HE CLAIMS THE CAMP COMMANDER IS CUBAN, AND THE TRAINING IS DONE BY ABOUT 30 CUBAN ADVISORS. THE MERCENARY SECTION HE FOUND HIMSELF IN CONSISTED OF 77 TRAINEES FROM ALL OVER AFRICA. EACH TRAINEE IS ASSIGNED A NUMBER, AND NO NAMES ARE EVER USED. (KONE COULD NOT REMEMBER HIS NUMBER.) FROM MAY 11 TO AUGUST 20, 1977 HE WAS IN TRAINING. ON AUGUST 20 HE WAS CONVOKED BY THE CAMP DEPUTY COMMANDER, CAPTAIN LAMINE KEITA, WHO TOLD HIM

HE WAS BEING SENT TO KANKAN, GUINEA TO PICK UP SUPPLIES. THE DEPUTY COMMANDER THEN TOLD HIM THAT ONCE IN KANKAN HE WAS TO TRY TO ESCAPE TO MALI WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHICH HE WAS TO GIVE THE U. S. EMBASSY IN BAMAKO: IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 1977 A TEAM OF TWO CUBANS, TWO ANGOLANS, TWO BENINOISE, AND ONE GUINEAN GIRL WILL BE SENT FROM CAMP BOIREAU TO LONE, TOGO WHERE THEY WILL ASSASSINATE THE U. S. AMBASSADOR TO TOGO. AFTER ACCOMPLISHING THAT TASK, TEAM WILL THEN PROCEED TO GABON WHERE THEY WILL ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT OF GABON.

3. KONE HAD NO FURTHER DETAILS ON PLOTS BECAUSE HE SAYS HE IS SIMPLY ACTING AS MESSENGER AND IS NOT INVOLVED. WHEN EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED WHY HE RISKED HIS LIFE TO ESCAPE AND BRING THIS INFO, HE REPLIED THAT HE SIMPLY GLAD TO GET OUT OF SITUATION IN WHICH HE NEVER WANTED TO BE INVOLVED IN FIRST PLACE. KONE SAID HE TOOK FIRST CHANCE TO ESCAPE AND FELT U. S. EMBASSY SHOULD BE WARNED. WHEN ASKED WHAT HE WANTED IN RETURN FOR THIS INFORMATION, KONE ACTED OFFENDED AND REPLIED THAT MONEY WAS OF COURSE NOT THE REASON. HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF NO MONEY WAS INVOLVED, THE DISCUSSION WAS ENDED AND HE WOULD PROVIDE NO FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT ASSASSINATION PLOT. HE THEN STORMED OUT OF EMBASSY REFUSING TO SAY WHERE HE COULD BE CONTACTED.

4. IN OPINION OF EMBASSY OFFICER WHO RECEIVED HIM, KONE IS MOST LIKELY A FABRICATOR. HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY DETAILS OR VERIFICATION OF HIS STORY. HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE INFO ABOUT
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PAGE 03 BAMAKO 03595 311225Z

HIS MILITARY TRAINING IN GUINEA. HE WAS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN HOW ASSASSINATION TEAM COULD STRIKE IN TWO PLACES, I. E. TOGO AND GABON, ON SAME DATE, SEPTEMBER 12. HE ACTED NERVOUS, UNSTABLE, DEFENSIVE AND IRRATIONAL. WHEN THE ISSUE OF MONEY AROSE, HE AT FIRST PRETENDED TO BE OFFENDED BY THE INSINUATION THAT HE PROMPTED TO PROVIDE INFO IN RETURN FOR MONEY, AND THEN STORMED OFF WHEN HE REALIZED NO MONEY WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.
BYRNE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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